

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 02827 212302Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 2827

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, SHUM, CI

SUBJECT: DEVELOPMENTS IN CASE OF CHILEAN NATIONAL JUAN CARLOS PERELMAN

REF: A) STATE 77272 B) SANTIAGO 2086

1. FOLLOWING INFORMATION REPORTED FOR BACKGROUND PURPOSES SHOULD CASE AGAIN BE BROUGHT TO DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION.

2. LAST WEEK NEWSWEEK REPORTER JAMES PRINGLE (BRITISH SUBJECT), WORKING OUT OF BUENOS AIRES, SPOKE TO EMBASSY ABOUT PERELMAN CASE. SAID HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO DO A CASE-STUDY TYPE OF STORY, FROM DETENTION TO FINAL DISPOSITION. EMBASSY GAVE HIM WHAT APPROPRIATE INFORMATION WE COULD ON PERELMAN, AND ON OUR GENERAL POLICY ON SUCH CASES. PRINGLE TOLD US LATER IN WEEK THAT HE HAD DETERMINED FROM SOURCES HE DID NOT DISCLOSE THAT PERELMAN HAD BEEN DETAINED BY NATIONAL DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE (DINA) AND "TORTURED" INITIALLY, BUT WAS STILL ALIVE AS OF APRIL 13. PRINGLE SAID HIS NEW YORK EDITOR HAD TOLD HIM THAT CHILEAN CONSUL GENERAL IN NEW YORK HAD ASKED FOR INFORMATION ON CASE FROM CHILEAN EMBASSY. CHILEAN EMBASSY ASKED INTERIOR MINISTRY, WHICH REPORTED IT HAD NO RECORD OF PERELMAN AS HAVING BEEN DETAINED BUT INTENDED TO SEND SOMEONE TO INTERVIEW PERELMAN'S FATHER.

3. LATER PRINGLE CALLED HIS EDITOR (JIM CLINE) IN NEW YORK WITH THE INFORMATION THAT PERELMAN HAD BEEN PICKED UP BY
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PAGE 02 SANTIA 02827 212302Z

DINA IN A RAID ON HOME OF A MISS DIAZ. SHE REPORTEDLY IS

MEMBER OF EXTREMIST MOVEMENT OF REVOLUTIONARY LEFT (MIR), AND HAD BEEN SO TORTURED THAT DOCTOR REFUSED TO ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR HER LIFE. AT THIS POINT PRINGLE'S EDITOR TOLD HIM TO LEAVE CHILE IMMEDIATELY, SINCE HE FEARED FOR PRINGLE'S LIFE.

4. PRINGLE ALSO TOLD US IT WAS HIS IMPRESSION THAT PERELMAN WAS IN DIAZ'S HOME AT TIME OF RAID, AND THAT DINA WAS AFTER HER AND NOT PERELMAN. HE THOUGHT INTERIOR MINISTRY REALLY HAD NO INFORMATION ON PERELMAN, AND IT WAS PRINGLE'S IMPRESSION THAT WITHIN SHORT, UNSPECIFIED TIME--"ONCE HE RECOVERS"--PERELMAN WOULD BE RELEASED BECAUSE OF PRESSURE BEING BROUGHT TO BEAR ON CASE.

5. APRIL 21 PERELMAN'S FATHER TOLD EMBOFF HE HAD HEARD FROM RELATIVES IN U.S. THAT CHILEAN PRESS ATTACHE IN WASHINGTON HAD BEEN SAYING THAT INTERIOR MINISTRY OFFICIALS HAD INTERVIEWED THE FATHER, WHO REPORTEDLY DENIED HAVING A SON BY THAT NAME, OR THAT HE HAD A MISSING SON. PERELMAN'S FATHER TOLD US THAT IN FACT NO ONE HAD APPROACHED HIM. FATHER IS NOW CONCERNED FOR OWN SAFETY.

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